



## **FACT SHEET: Scott Pruitt is too extreme to lead the EPA**

*To lead the Environmental Protection Agency, President-elect Trump has chosen Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt, an individual who refuses to accept the science on climate change and has unsuccessfully tried to undermine the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act. At every turn, Scott Pruitt has fought on the side of big polluters to weaken common sense public health protections to protect our children from mercury, arsenic, other dangerous neurotoxins and carbon pollution. His unprecedented levels of collusion with fossil fuel special interests and dangerous anti – environment record could not be more out of touch with the will of the American people, who overwhelmingly support action on climate change and laws to protect the air we breathe and the water we drink. Scott Pruitt cannot be trusted to lead an agency he has tried to sue at every turn at the expense of the health and well-being of millions of Americans.*

*It is imperative we stop #pollutingpruitt from destroying the clean air and water protections vital to the public health of the American people.*

### **Scott Pruitt is a climate change denier**

#### **Pruitt wrote an entire op-ed questioning the science of climate change:**

**“Global Warming Has Inspired One Of The Major Policy Debates Of Our Time. That Debate Is Far From Settled. Scientists Continue To Disagree About The Degree And Extent Of Global Warming And Its Connection To The Actions Of Mankind.”** According to an op-ed written by Scott Pruitt in Tulsa World, “Healthy debate is the lifeblood of American democracy, and global warming has inspired one of the major policy debates of our time. That debate is far from settled. Scientists continue to disagree about the degree and extent of global warming and its connection to the actions of mankind.” [Tulsa World, [5/21/16](#)]

#### **Pruitt’s climate denial goes against the scientific community:**

- 97% of scientists, including those at NASA, agree that human activities are causing climate change. [\[NASA\]](#)
- The 18 major national scientific organizations issued a joint statement with the following conclusion: “Observations throughout the world make it clear that climate change is occurring, and rigorous scientific research demonstrates that the greenhouse gases emitted by human activities are the primary driver.” [\[AAAS\]](#)

#### **Pruitt’s climate denial is against the will of the American people:**

- **77% of Americans support government action to combat climate change.** A Stanford poll found 83% of Americans, including 61% of Republicans, say if nothing is done to reduce emissions, global warming will be a serious problem in the future. 77% of Americans say the federal government should be doing a substantial amount to combat climate change. [New York Times/Stanford [Poll](#), 1/30/15]
- **67% of Americans support EPA action to curb carbon pollution from power plants.** A Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll out found 67% of respondents support EPA's new rules, while 29% oppose them. 57% support requiring companies to cut emissions, even if it means higher power bills, up from 48% in October 2009. [Wall Street Journal/NBC [Poll](#), 6/7/14]

**Scott Pruitt's blatantly anti – environment agenda threatens public health. He is unfit to lead an agency that he sued at every turn to block protections for clean air and water.**

**Scott Pruitt has sued the EPA over the legality of the Clean Power Plan**, claiming that the EPA does not have the authority under the Clean Air Act to regulate greenhouse gas emissions. [[Bloomberg](#)]

**Since becoming Oklahoma's top legal officer in 2011, Pruitt has unsuccessfully sued EPA to stop vital protections for public health**– including standards for reducing soot and smog pollution that [crosses interstate lines](#); protections against emissions of mercury, arsenic, acid gases and other toxic [pollutants from power plants](#); and standards to improve air quality in national parks and wilderness areas. Each time he failed. [[EDF](#)]

**Scott Pruitt launched three separate FAILED lawsuits against EPA clean air rules – the Regional Haze, Cross State Air Pollution Rule, and the Mercury and Air Toxics protections (MATS).** The Supreme Court flat out rejected Pruitt's challenge to the EPA's mercury standards, protecting millions of children from the effects of mercury, arsenic and other dangerous neurotoxins from coal plants [[NPR](#), [Washington Post](#)]

**Scott Pruitt wants to block the EPA's Clean Water Rule which will protect the drinking water for 117 million - ONE IN THREE – Americans .** About one in three Americans get drinking water from streams that lacked clear protection before the Clean Water Rule. According to an analysis of over 1,200 peer-reviewed scientific reports, small streams and wetlands play a critical role in the health of larger downstream bodies such as rivers, lakes, bays, and coastal waters. [[EPA](#); [The Oklahoman](#)]

**Pruitt doesn't even want the EPA to study fracking's potential links into water contamination:** In 2014, Pruitt sent a letter to the EPA OIG warning against preliminary research into threats to water resources posed by hydraulic fracturing. He said that he believed EPA's efforts to study whether fracking was linked to groundwater contamination was "politically motivated". [[OK office of attorney general](#)]

**Scott Pruitt has failed to act to protect the people of Oklahoma from increasingly powerful earthquakes caused by fossil fuel extraction through the process of fracking.** A string of level 5 magnitude earthquakes has hit the state of Oklahoma, and scientists have indicated that they are being caused by a dramatic rise in the use of hydraulic fracturing – fracking – to produce oil and gas. The problem lies in the massive volumes of wastewater unearthed in the process of unlocking the oil and gas. Operators typically dump the salty wastewater, injecting high volumes of fluid into disposal wells dug thousands of feet below the earth's surface. But the pressure from the wastewater is wreaking havoc on Oklahoma's faultlines. The Oklahoma Geological Survey (OGS) bluntly concluded last year it was "very likely" that the majority of earthquakes that rippled through the central and northern regions of the state were caused by this process of injecting wastewater into disposal wells. [NBC News, [11/14/16](#)]

**Pruitt Compared Taking on Big Oil to Offenses Committed By the British Leading to the American Revolution.** Pruitt wrote, "The United States was born out of a revolution against, in the words of the Declaration of Independence, an 'arbitrary government' that put men on trial 'for pretended offences' and 'abolish[ed] the Free System of English laws.' Brave men and women stood up to that oppressive government, and this, the greatest democracy of them all, one that is governed by the rule of law and not by men, is the product. Some of our states have forgotten this founding principle and are acting less like Jefferson and Adams and more like George III. A group of Democratic attorneys general has announced it intends to criminally investigate oil and gas companies that have disputed the science behind man-made global warming. Backed by green-energy interests and environmentalist lobbying groups, the coalition has promised to use intrusive investigations, costly litigation, and criminal prosecutions to silence critics of its climate-change agenda. Pretended offenses, indeed." [National Review, [5/17/16](#)]

**Scott Pruitt's blatantly anti – environment agenda threatens public health. He is unfit to lead an agency that he sued at every turn to block protections for clean air and water.**

**Scott Pruitt has received \$314,996 From Fossil Fuel Industries since 2002.**

According to the National Institute of Money in State Politics, Scott Pruitt has received a total of \$314,996 from fossil fuel industries since 2002. Pruitt received \$8,201 in 2002, \$76,970 in 2006, \$112,150 in 2010 and \$117,675 in 2014. [National Institute on Money in State Politics, accessed [12/7/16](#)]

**Scott Pruitt Used Letters Written By Devon Energy Lawyers To Send To the EPA.**

According to the New York Times, "The letter to the Environmental Protection Agency from Attorney General Scott Pruitt of Oklahoma carried a blunt accusation: Federal regulators were grossly overestimating the amount of air pollution caused by energy companies drilling new natural gas wells in his state. But Mr. Pruitt left out one critical point. The three-page letter was written by lawyers for Devon Energy, one of Oklahoma's biggest oil and gas companies, and was delivered to him by Devon's chief of lobbying. 'Outstanding!' William F. Whitsitt, who at the time directed government relations at the company, said in a note to Mr. Pruitt's office. The attorney general's staff had taken Devon's draft, copied it onto state government stationery with

only a few word changes, and sent it to Washington with the attorney general's signature." [New York Times, [12/6/14](#)]

- **Email Exchange Between Devon Energy And Scott Pruitt “Offers A Hint Of The Unprecedented, Secretive Alliance That Mr. Pruitt And Other Republican Attorneys General Have Formed With Some Of The Nation’s Top Energy Producers To Push Back Against The Obama Regulatory Agenda.”** According to the New York Times, “The email exchange from October 2011, obtained through an open-records request, offers a hint of the unprecedented, secretive alliance that Mr. Pruitt and other Republican attorneys general have formed with some of the nation’s top energy producers to push back against the Obama regulatory agenda, an investigation by The New York Times has found. Attorneys general in at least a dozen states are working with energy companies and other corporate interests, which in turn are providing them with record amounts of money for their political campaigns, including at least \$16 million this year.” [New York Times, [12/6/14](#)]
- **“Lobbyists And Company Officials Have Been Notably Solicitous, Helping Him [Pruitt] Raise His Profile As President For Two Years Of The Republican Attorneys General Association, A Post He Used To Help Start What He And Allies Called The Rule Of Law Campaign, Which Was Intended To Push Back Against Washington.”** According to the New York Times, “For Mr. Pruitt, the benefits have been clear. Lobbyists and company officials have been notably solicitous, helping him raise his profile as president for two years of the Republican Attorneys General Association, a post he used to help start what he and allies called the Rule of Law campaign, which was intended to push back against Washington. That campaign, in which attorneys general band together to operate like a large national law firm, has been used to back lawsuits and other challenges against the Obama administration on environmental issues, the Affordable Care Act and securities regulation. The most recent target is the president’s executive action on immigration.” [New York Times, [12/6/14](#)]
- **“Energy Industry Lobbyists Drafted Letters For Him [Pruitt] To Send To The E.P.A., The Interior Department, The Office Of Management And Budget And Even President Obama.”** According to the New York Times, “Mr. Pruitt has responded aggressively, and with a lot of helping hands. Energy industry lobbyists drafted letters for him to send to the E.P.A., the Interior Department, the Office of Management and Budget and even President Obama, The Times found. Industries that he regulates have also joined him as plaintiffs in court challenges, a departure from the usual role of the state attorney general, who traditionally sues companies to force compliance with state law. Energy industry lobbyists have also distributed draft legislation to attorneys general and asked them to help push it through state legislatures to give the attorneys general clearer authority to challenge the Obama regulatory agenda, the documents show.” [New York Times, [12/6/14](#)]
- **Devon Energy Prompted Scott Pruitt To Send A Letter To The EPA Opposing The Methane Regulations.** According to the New York Times, “While some of the exchanges were general in character, others were quite explicit, especially the communication about the E.P.A.’s methane regulations that had prompted Mr. Whitsitt, the Devon official, to propose that Mr. Pruitt send a letter to the agency. ‘Just a note to pass along the electronic version of the draft letter to Lisa Jackson at E.P.A.,’ said one

September 2011 letter to Mr. Pruitt's chief of staff from Mr. Whitsitt. 'We have no pride of authorship, so whatever you do on this is fine.' Mr. Pruitt took the letter and, after changing just 37 words in the 1,016-word draft, copied it onto his state government letterhead and sent it to Ms. Jackson, the E.P.A. administrator." [New York Times, [12/6/14](#)]

- **Pruitt Set Up The Rule Of Law Defense Fund That “Allows Companies Benefiting From The Actions Of Mr. Pruitt And Other Republican Attorneys General To Make Anonymous Donations, In Unlimited Amounts.”** According to the New York Times, “In addition to the American Petroleum Institute, major energy companies — ConocoPhillips, the oil and gas company; Alpha Natural Resources, a coal mining giant; and American Electric Power, the nation's biggest coal consumer — have recently joined the Republican Attorneys General Association, bringing in hundreds of thousands of additional dollars to the group, internal documents show. By last year, the association was starting to pull in so much money under Mr. Pruitt's leadership that it decided to break free from its partnership with the Republican State Leadership Committee, a group that represents state elected officials. Within months, the association also set up the Rule of Law Defense Fund, yet another legal entity that allows companies benefiting from the actions of Mr. Pruitt and other Republican attorneys general to make anonymous donations, in unlimited amounts. Fund-raising skyrocketed.” [New York Times, [12/6/14](#)]
- **2013: Oklahoma Gas & Electric Held A Fundraiser For Pruitt, Four Days Later Pruitt Filed A New Appeal In Their Case Against The EPA.** According to the New York Times, “The fund-raising has taken place on the state level as well. Oklahoma Gas & Electric — a for-profit utility that Mr. Pruitt joined with in federal court to fight the E.P.A. — invited its employees to the Petroleum Club in downtown Oklahoma City late last year for a fund-raising event for Mr. Pruitt, drawing donations from about 45 company employees, including the chief executive. Four days later, Mr. Pruitt filed a new appeal in the case — timing that the utility said was a coincidence.” [New York Times, [12/6/14](#)]